



4 January 2005

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Subject: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein:

On behalf of the membership of the United States Warrant Officers Association, we urge the Federal Communications Commission to defeat the proposed new regulations that would impose new charges and fees on enhanced pre-paid calling cards, and in so doing, place a new and unjust burden on our military's men and women and their families who are so gallantly serving in our time of need. Our organization represents thousands of men and women now serving in our military, Veterans, and their families. Many of these families are already suffering great hardships as they are torn from their civilian endeavors and called to serve. To add to their financial problems by passing regulations that would directly impose increased hardships on a major means of family communications appears to be unconscionable.

Ninety-five percent of military personnel use pre-paid calling cards; such cards account for over one billion precious minutes of calls between our troops and their families and friends each year. In short, pre-paid calling cards are the lifeline for our servicemen and women stationed abroad who depend on affordable means of communication back home.

The FCC should not raise the cost of pre-paid calling cards at a time when our military is courageously serving in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and other efforts around the globe. The effect of new regulations, if successful, would be an astounding rate hike of almost 20% on our servicemen and women.

If there is one thing that policy makers from every end of the political spectrum agree on it is the need to make life easier – not harder – for our military and their families. It is in this regard that we hope that the FCC commissioners will resist the internal bureaucratic impulses to re-regulate these vital services to the detriment of those brave soldiers who are fighting for our freedom.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert D. Scott, CW4 (Retired)  
Executive Director.

Cc:  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
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